MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: അപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറ ഉദ്യോഗ സ്ഥർ വ്യവസായമാകുമോ?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വാദപ്രതിവാദത്തിന ആവശ്യമില്ലല്ലോ.

Cashew-nut Factories.

180. *MR. P. S. MUHAMED (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the cashew-nut factories in the State have been brought under the factories Act; and

(*b*) if not, the reasons for not bringing them under the Factories Act?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The present condition of the industry does not justify such a course.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: With reference to answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know what is the nature of the present condition of the cashew-nut industry that does not justify the bringing of the factories under the Factories Act?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: At the moment there is lack of shipping facilities in the matter of cashew-nut that is being kept ready for export to America. The very factories themselves are in need of assistance from Government because cashew-nut business is dull. The honourable members of the House may be aware of that after the recent developments consequent on war.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, on a point of order. Is it necessary for the honourable member to make a speech now for answering this simple question?

PRESIDENT: That is no point of order. The official member is only explaining the position.

MR. E. I. CHACKO: Sir, there are no shipping facilities for exporting cashew-nut to America. Honourable members may know well that America is the chief consumer of cashew-nut and the factories that trade on this commodity are lying idle in Travancore. Under these circumstances this is not the time for bringing such factories under the Factories Act.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I know whether the plant which enables oil to be extracted from cashew-nut, will be exempted from the operation of the clause under the Factories Act?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: That is not exempted.

PRESIDENT: Is there any such plant in Travancore, now?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: Sir, there is one plant with Messrs. Pierce Lesslie & Co. at Kundara.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: May I know how the application of the Factories Act reduced the profit or loss of the cashew-nut factory?

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MR. E. I. CHACKO: There is one clause in the Factories Act which prohibits the employment of children under 12 years of age in a factory. At least, about 35 to 50 per cent of the employees in a cashew-nut Factory are children, because the work is of such a character, easy enough for children. If children are not permitted to do such work, the charges of manufacture will go up and most of the factories may have to stop work on account of higher cost of production at a time when such increase in cost cannot be borne by this industry.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Is there any recommendation from the Director of Industries to the effect that in view of the exemption for children, some clauses of the Act need not be put into operation for some time until this particular defect is improved?

MR. E. I. CHACKO: That is under the consideration of the Department.

Certificates of the Intermediate Examination.

181. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the agency that supplied to the University of Travancore paper for printing the certificates issued to the candidates who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Travancore University held in September 1941;

(*b*) whether some such certificates were printed on paper having the water mark thereon of any bank in liquidation; and

(*c*) if so, the name of such a bank?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: (*a*) The Huzur Stationery Department.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Travancore National and Quilon Bank.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the quality of paper that was purchased with the water mark of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank for supply to the University?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: The paper was purchased at 3 as. 6 pies.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether there was any confiscation of that?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: No, Sir,

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether any accounts are kept for the paper that came into the hands of the Superintendent of Stationery?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: Certainly, Sir. It was noticed that a special quality of paper was needed for printing certificates. This quality had run short with Government. For meeting this need in the present emergency of a war, Government was not able to get this kind of paper from anywhere else. Hence this paper had to be bought in the open market, when we came to know of its existence.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know for what amount was the paper purchased?

DR. H. PARAMESWARAN: I cannot at present remember the full value of the paper. I remember the rate and it is 3 as. 6 pies. per lb.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: My question is about the purchase of the paper. What is the total quantity please?

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